



A Welcome from CADRA in 2007

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www.cadra.org.uk



CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

Many members will know that sadly Molly Casey, CADRA Life President, died in November 2006. Molly was active in CADRA until the last few weeks. We all miss her immense knowledge and experience but her contribution and her influence lives on in so many ways. Molly was not only a central figure in CADRA but was also a long standing committee member of the Reading Civic Society.

We have been working with the Civic Society and the Caversham Court Gazebo Trust to create a lasting memorial. Molly was enthusiastic about the creation a replica of the 17thC weather vane for the gazebo in Caversham Court. With a view over Reading, Caversham and the Thames, what

could be a more fitting place for a memorial?

Plans to commission a replica in her memory are now progressing and we would be delighted if CADRA

...Caversham Court gardens on the evening of Thursday 21 June

members would like to join Civic Society members by making a financial contribution. The attached flyer gives further details. Further copies are available from the CADRA Secretary or from Wordplay, in Prospect Street who have kindly agreed to accept cheques on our behalf.

We hope to have the replica

complete in time for a dedication and celebration in Caversham Court gardens on the evening of Thursday 21 June 2007. The vane will then be kept safe to be erected at the completion of the restoration of the gardens and the gazebo.

Caversham residents have an excellent record of mobilising to express their views. The response to the Mapledurham Playing Fields consultation was the largest ever recorded by the Borough Council (more details on page 2.)

Consultation on strategic plans for both Reading and South Oxfordshire continue with public exhibitions at various stages. These will have a marked impact on the factors determining decisions on individual applications.

Even closer to home, the major feature since our last newsletter has been the number of planning applications where the developer has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against refusal by the Borough Council (more details on page 3)

Neighbourhood policing is shortly to be introduced in Caversham and elsewhere. We hope that you will join us on 17th April to meet Inspector Graham Dix and the Caversham Police Team, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and the Inspector responsible for the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing.

Helen Lambert

2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 17TH. APRIL
At the BAPTIST FREE CHURCH CENTRE, PROSPECT ST. at 7-30pm

To be followed by

Neighbourhood Policing

The principles and its introduction in Caversham

Thames Valley Police and the Caversham Police Team

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Over a year has passed since the flurry of applications by public houses to conform with the new Licensing Act. A pattern emerged in Caversham. The Council deemed the area to be mainly residential and Council guidelines required the license applicant to 'demonstrate clearly that public nuisance would not result from later operation'.

As a rule of thumb the Council did not permit weekday opening beyond 11pm (a bit later at weekends and for special events). Some of the hearings were well attended by members of the public and it was clear that the Council took these representations very seriously.

A problem arose over the status of clubs and restaurants which also sold alcohol into the night. In one way these can be viewed as no more than glorified public houses, on the other hand the regulations governing restaurants and 'private' clubs are certainly different from those pertain-

ing to 'public' houses.

Caversham's Tesco petrol station has also subsequently put in a couple of applications to vary the original license. Although they have withdrawn an application for what would have been almost 24-hour alcohol sales, they now have a planning application in for extended opening hours which is ongoing at the time of writing. If you are concerned about this in any way it will be necessary to keep in touch with the Council and of course with us at CADRA.

At the end of March 2007 the Riverview Brasserie will have a hearing at the Magistrates Court. The owners are seeking to overturn the Council's refusal to grant longer hours for the club. At the original hearing only CADRA and the Council's Health and Safety department placed any objections.

Mapledurham Playing Fields

Stewart Bolton

The consultation last Autumn on four options generated almost three thousand responses and a petition. 71% voted for Option C - the demolition of the existing hall and provision of changing rooms funded by the sale of a small piece of the land or perhaps from other funding. Comments made clear that the majority of local people did not want to see the sale of any of the land.

The Council have stated that funds are not available to pursue any of the other options or to refurbish the existing building which they believe has

come to the end of its designed life. Many people believe this has been made worse by a lack of maintenance and that it would be a great shame to lose the facility of the hall.

The Council have accepted the results of the consultation process and are proceeding with Option C. They have requested their officers to investigate ways of delivering the scheme without the sale of any land for example through Section 106 monies and fundraising. A joint working party is also being established between the Mapledurham Playing

Fields Management Committee and the User's Committee to consider usage, funding, refurbishment, replacement hall and /or meeting rooms.

We wish them every success but funding for a hall and/or meeting rooms is a very difficult problem to overcome and it may be in the short term the best that can be hoped for is new changing rooms built, without the sale of any land, designed in such a way that further facilities could be added in the future.

Safer Caversham and Neighbourhood Policing

John Roach

Neighbourhood Policing is shortly to be introduced to all of Caversham, starting initially in Lower Caversham. The aim will be to secure greater resident and business involvement in identifying problems and formulating appropriate responses.

Four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are in post and receiving training. They will support the team covering Caversham and Kings Meadow - Inspector Graham Dix, Sergeant Warren McKeown, PC Chris Manneta and PC Stuart Murdoch.

An important part of community involvement is the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, a group of residents working in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other agencies to make their communities safer. The size of a scheme is between a few or 100 houses, depending on the area where you live.

Each scheme needs a co-ordinator, who gels the scheme together and gives a point of contact for the members and Thames Valley Police. The co-ordinator receives crime information via "Ringmaster" which is passed onto the members. Thames Valley Police make regular use of information on issues or concerns in each neighbourhood.

For further information, contact Liz Herbert on 0118 9536250 or come and meet her after the AGM. More detail will also be available on www.cadra.org.uk.

Following reports of disruptive behaviour around Albert Road Park, particularly in the evenings, the police have put in hand a wide range of different measures and we hope that this will soon have an effect.

Do join us on Tuesday 17th April and meet the police team.

The IDR one-way construction works have yet to start. For some this is good news as there is still time to find more of the facts about the likely effects.

Wokingham District Council has requested a Judicial Review, based largely on alleged inadequate consultation and difficulty in obtaining facts from Reading. A major concern is the predicted 23% increase in traffic over Sonning Bridge. We understand that IDR works cannot start until this review is resolved. A Public Inquiry has been requested and there is a small chance that this could be requested by the Government Office, GOSE at Guildford. No further information on the review is available as we go to press.

Additions to the cycle tracks and shared-use (cycle and pedestrian) paths have been proposed around the IDR. The response to the Traffic Order Notice will be discussed by the Council, concurrent with the preparation of this Newsletter.

CADRA is seeking to obtain more information about the likely impacts of the one-way IDR on Caversham. Some responses to our specific questions to Reading have been received, but these raise further questions. To our ques-

tion "Are there any proposals to make Reading and Caversham bridges one-way," the answer was "The IDR scheme does not include the conversion of both bridges to one-way". Another answer is: "The scheme will be supported by packages of local measures that make sure that the people of Reading, and especially the people from Caversham, get the full benefits from the scheme." We await clarification.

The Reading Borough Council website has information including "The IDR Core Scheme – Transport and Environmental Report", which in 40 pages identifies few of the criticisms of the scheme. The "Environmental Impact Assessment" on the same site provides a more balanced and factual critique.

The North Area Access Study produced a good response to the public consultation in 2005. A second newsletter was delivered to homes, setting out some information on short, medium and long term measures and there has been press coverage of issues including a Caversham Road Bus Lane and possible sites for Park and Ride schemes. Keep an eye on the CADRA and RBC websites as these proposals move forward.

Planning

Helen Lambert

The major concern has been the number of schemes for which an appeal has been made to the Planning Inspectorate. Appeals are in progress for 161 Upper Woodcote Road, All Hallows Road, Chazey Farm, the old laundry site on George Street and most recently for the proposed sheltered housing scheme on School Lane near the Waitrose car park.

This is a very dense scheme with a high roofline and limited space for landscaping. The deadline for comments on School Lane is 2 April 2007. If you are concerned, please do take the time to comment. You can write to the Inspectorate or to

the Planning Officer who may reflect your comments in their submission. More details are available on the CADRA website.

Other concerns include the number of repeat applications. The important thing here is that comments on the previous application will not be carried forward. If your previous comments are still relevant, a photocopy with the new application reference number will suffice.

Enforcement action against a breach of the planning conditions is progressed by a different team. Our website (www.cadra.org.uk) gives a link to the new Draft Planning En-

forcement Policy on which comments are invited.

CADRA produces a monthly summary of schemes of wider interest north of the river. This can be found on our website showing summary information and a link to the application details on the Council website. It is usually possible to view plans on line via 'view associated documents', though there are often problems with pop-up blockers.

Consultation on the Reading Central Area Action Plan has just finished and we await the second stage on the Civic Area as the initial comments are taken on board.

Can you help?

We are always pleased to receive offers of help. If you have marketing and design skills which you could offer on a one off basis, we would be glad of your help in attracting new members.

If you have broadband and would be interested in helping to keep our website up to date, we would value your help. No specialist knowledge is required.

If you would like to take part in the general running of the association and perhaps develop a particular area, we would like to co-opt new members on to the committee.

To find out more or to explore possibilities, please contact the Chairman or Secretary – see details on back page.

We need all your support in encouraging friends and neighbours to join and maintain a flourishing association!

About CADRA

The Committee

Chairman: Helen Lambert,
5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE
Tel: 947 3165

Treasurer: Stewart Bolton
11 Graveney Drive, RG4 7EG
Tel: 948 2687

Secretary: Linda Watsham
159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ
Tel: 947 8744

Voluntary Liaison: James Frost
3 Grass Hill, RG4 7TJ

Footpaths & Traffic: John Lee
316 Hemdean Road, RG4 7QS

Planning: Jennifer Millest
40 Mill Green, RG4 8EX

Licensing & Transport: John Mullaney
29 Derby Road, RG4 5HE

Web-site & Link to Committee Support:
Ruth Perkins

61 Woodcote Road, RG4 7EX

Safer Caversham: John Roach

3 Courtlands, St. Peter's Avenue, RG4 7DH

Committee Support

Membership: Mick Simmons
84 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NA

Newsletter Distribution: Jo Munday
46 South View Ave, RG4 5AJ

Planning Research: Liz Killick
153 Upper Woodcote Rd, RG4 7JR

The Purpose of CADRA

The organization was established almost 40 years ago and has become a widely respected voice for the community north of the river. Our aim is to:
"preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District."

In essence this means trying to keep the good parts, improve the undesirable parts and prevent detrimental change. We resolutely avoid party political bias and work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals.

To be effective, we have to be able to hear our members' opinions and reflect their views. In addition to a wide range of informal links, we issue two newsletters a year and hold two public meetings.

CADRA Membership

At just £2 per year per household, membership of CADRA is a bargain! Membership leaflets are available in Caversham Library, Wordplay and Bangles or from the Membership Secretary, tel 0118 9543537. Please do encourage your friends and neighbours to join.

Contacting CADRA

We prefer you to contact us in writing, so that we can give proper attention to your comments and make a considered response. Please write to the Secretary, or better still, use e-mail. **Our e-mail address is info@CADRA.org.uk**

For urgent matters only, Officers' telephone numbers are given on the left, but please use them with consideration.

Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting**
on **Tuesday April 17th at 7:30 pm.**
at the **Baptist Free Church Centre**
Prospect Street, Caversham.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2006 AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee
5. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM

Committee: Retiring and Co-opted Members

Under the rules of the Constitution, Helen Lambert, John Roach and Linda Watsham will retire at the AGM. They have each indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.

Nominations for the Committee

Any member may be nominated for election to the Committee at the AGM, subject to the conditions in the Constitution. The Nominee must have a proposer and seconder who are both members. Please use the form below and return the completed nomination to the Secretary no less than 14 days before the AGM.

Nominee: *I am willing to serve on the Committee of CADRA, carry out duties as agreed and to act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.*

Name Signature & Date

Proposed by..... Seconded by.....